Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/787,392	NAKAJO, MASAKAZU	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christine Sung	2884	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *12/13/06*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *2,7-10 and 12-17*.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on December 13, 2006 has been accepted and entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Mion on March 22, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 7 now reads

A radiation image forming unit comprising:

a stimulable phosphor sheet assembly which contains a phosphor layer, and which is repeatedly usable for recording the radiation image information of a subject based on radiation applied thereto and erasing the recorded radiation image information;

wherein said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly has a first recess, said phosphor layer being detachably mounted in said first recess by a fastening member;

and a cassette for storing said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly,

wherein a sheet member of a different material is attached to said cassette and

wherein said cassette comprises:

a frame around said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly; and

a light shield plate detachably mounted on said cassette, a lid being angularly movably mounted on a portion of said light shield plate;

said sheet member of the different material being detachably mounted on an inner surface of said light shield plate.

Claim 8 now reads:

A radiation image forming unit comprising:

a stimulable phosphor sheet assembly which includes a phosphor layer, and which is repeatedly usable for recording the radiation image information of a subject based on radiation applied thereto and erasing the recorded radiation image information;

wherein said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly has a first recess, said phosphor layer being detachably mounted in said first recess by a fastening member; and

cassette for storing said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly;

wherein a sheet member of a different material is attached to said cassette, and

wherein said cassette comprises:

a frame for storing said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly.;

and a lid openably and closably mounted on said frame;

said sheet member of the different material being detachably mounted on an inner surface of said lid.

Claim 9 now reads:

A radiation image forming unit comprising:

a stimulable phosphor sheet assembly which includes a phosphor layer, and which is repeatedly usable for recording the radiation image information of a subject based on radiation applied thereto and erasing the recorded radiation image information;

wherein said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly has a first recess, said phosphor layer being detachably mounted in said first recess by a fastening member;

and a cassette for storing said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly,

wherein a removable sheet member of a different material is removably attached to said cassette, and

wherein said cassette comprises a tray for being stored in an opening defined in a side of said cassette, said tray having:

a cap for closing said opening;

said removable sheet member of the different material; and

said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly.

Claim 10 now reads:

A radiation image forming cassette for storing a stimulable phosphor sheet assembly which includes a phosphor layer, and which is repeatedly usable for recording the radiation image information of a subject based on radiation applied thereto and erasing the recorded radiation image information,

wherein said stimulable phosphor sheet assembly has a first recess, said phosphor layer being detachably mounted in said first recess by a fastening member;

said radiation image forming cassette having a sheet member of a different material from the phosphor layer, said sheet member being mounted on at least one surface of the radiation image forming cassette,

wherein said sheet member is removably attached to a surface of said cassette which is exposed to radiation applied to said stimulable phosphor sheet.

Claim 12 now reads:

A radiation image forming cassette according to claim 10, wherein said surface of the radiation image forming cassette has a second recess, said sheet member of the different material being mounted in said second recess.

Claim 15 now reads:

A radiation image forming cassette according to claim 14,

wherein said cassette and another said cassette form a pair of cassettes which are stacked together,

wherein protrusions are formed on a frame of one of said pair of cassettes, and second recesses are formed on a frame of the other of said pair of cassettes, respectively, and

wherein said protrusions are fitted in said second recesses such that said pair of cassettes are in alignment with each other.

Claim 18 is cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2, 7-10 and 12-17 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant argues that the sheet member of a different material that is to be mounted in the recess of the phosphor sheet assembly, is not disclosed. This argument is persuasive.

Regarding claim 2, none of the prior art of record specifies or makes obvious a radiation image forming unit, namely the positioning of the stimulable phosphor sheet assembly, such that it the sheet member of a different material from the phosphor layer is detachably mounted in a recess of the phosphor sheet assembly, along with the other claimed elements. References such as Nakajo, Tamura and Shoji (all previously cited in prior office action), disclose many of the elements, but do not specify the particular positioning of the sheet member of another material with respect to the phosphor sheet assembly. The elements of the invention are well known, however, the prior art of record does not disclose the specific positioning of the elements as claimed.

Regarding claim 7, none of the prior art of record specifies or makes obvious a radiation image forming unit, namely the positioning of the phosphor layer within a recess of the phosphor sheet assembly in combination with the other claimed elements, namely the detachable light shield and sheet member of a different material. Many prior art references disclose similar image forming units (see Nakajo, Tamura and Shoji), however, none of the prior art of record specifies the particular phosphor sheet assembly with the recess for detachably mounting the phosphor layer in combination with the specific positioning of the detachable light shield and sheet

member if a different material. The elements of the invention are well known, however, the prior art of record does not disclose the specific positioning of the elements as claimed.

Regarding claim 8, none of the prior art of record specifies or makes obvious a radiation image forming unit, namely the positioning of the phosphor layer within a recess of the phosphor sheet assembly in combination with the other claimed elements, namely the detachable sheet member of a different material. Many prior art references disclose similar image forming units (see Nakajo, Tamura and Shoji), however, none of the prior art of record specifies the particular phosphor sheet assembly with the recess for detachably mounting the phosphor layer in combination with the specific positioning of the sheet member of a different material. The elements of the invention are well known, however, the prior art of record does not disclose the specific positioning of the elements as claimed.

Regarding claim 9, none of the prior art of record specifies or makes obvious a radiation image forming unit, namely the positioning of the phosphor layer within a recess of the phosphor sheet assembly in combination with the other claimed elements, namely the detachable sheet member of a different material. Many prior art references disclose similar image forming units (see Nakajo, Tamura and Shoji), however, none of the prior art of record specifies the particular phosphor sheet assembly with the recess for detachably mounting the phosphor layer in combination with the specific positioning of the sheet member of a different material. The elements of the invention are well known, however, the prior art of record does not disclose the specific positioning of the elements as claimed.

Regarding claim 10, none of the prior art of record specifies or makes obvious a radiation image forming unit, namely the positioning of the phosphor layer within a recess of the phosphor

sheet assembly in combination with the other claimed elements, namely the detachable sheet member of a different material. Many prior art references disclose similar image forming units (see Nakajo, Tamura and Shoji), however, none of the prior art of record specifies the particular phosphor sheet assembly with the recess for detachably mounting the phosphor layer in combination with the specific positioning of the sheet member of a different material. The elements of the invention are well known, however, the prior art of record does not disclose the specific positioning of the elements as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine Sung whose telephone number is 571-272-2448. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 9-5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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